The project has been examined in Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. The Coconut Development Board since its inception has sanctioned Rs. 110.94 crores for Kerala for similar programme. Such a massive programme which require high investment within a time frame cannot be tackled with meager financial allocation available with Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India. Govt. of Kerala, therefore, was advised to redesign the project for posing to Planning Commission or identified external funding agency, for which full fledged project would be required giving detailed justification for the strategies and components proposed to be implemented, the time frame, the milestones for each activity alongwith techno-economic viability etc. The State Government has been, accordingly, requested to revise the project.

Drought assistance to Karnataka

344. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka is facing severe drought continuously for the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of Central assistance sought by the State Government to tackle the drought situation, the amount and foodgrains released in the year 2002 and 2003; and

(c) the details of steps taken to provide drinking water to the affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (c) The Government of Karnataka reported drought situation in parts of the State during 2001 and 2002 on account of rainfall deficit during South-West Monsoon. Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2001-02 amounting to Rs. 58.72 crore and for 2002-03 amounting to Rs. 61.66 crore were released to the State for undertaking immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. Details of assistance sought and provided from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for drought of 2001-02 and 2002-03 is indicated below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Assistance sought	NCCF Assistance provided
2001-02	930.45	
2002-03	1562.85	189.18(so far)

During 2002-2003, 3.65 lakh MTs of foodgrains have been allocated free of cost. In addition to release of funds under the schemes implemented by the Departments of Drinking Water Supply and Urban Development, assistance has been provided to Karnataka for the current drought under the special component of 5% provision under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme earmarked for natural calamities. However, necessary action at the ground is required to be taken by the State Government.

Import of seeds of agro products

345. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the seeds of different agro products have been imported in the past to improve the yields;

(b) if so, whether the imported seeds were of low quality;

(c) if not, whether it is a fact that the countries exporting such seeds to India don't use the same; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No report has been received regarding the low quality of imported seeds;

(c) Yes, Sir. Some countries including India, grow seeds for export purposes to suit different agro climatic regions, etc.

(d) The quality of imported seeds and planting materials is regulated under the Plants, Fruits and Seeds (Regulation of import into India) Order, 1989 and the New Policy on Seed Development.